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**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 15, 2015**

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Testimony Regarding Senate Bill No. 6841

**AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL OPTION REGARDING TAX RELIEF FOR  
CERTAIN ELDERLY OR TOTALLY DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.**

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Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Governor's Bill No. 6841, An Act Concerning A Municipal Option Regarding Tax Relief For Certain Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowners.

This bill, proposed by the Governor, would allow municipalities to, by ordinance, adjust the tax reduction available to elderly or disabled homeowners by increasing (a) the income ranges which are eligible for the reduction or (b) the tax reduction by 25% more than the latest adjustment of qualifying amounts prepared by OPM. It would require municipalities exercising these options to inform OPM in writing.

Local governments and the state have long sought ways to relieve property tax burdens, particularly on low- and fixed-income individuals and families. This property tax relief program is especially important to people living in homes with high values. Although limited, it helps keep elderly and disabled residents in their homes.

At the same time, municipalities have frequently expressed concern about state statutes that mandate the way in which programs are implemented.

This bill addresses both concerns. It gives municipalities the freedom to grant additional property tax relief to needy homeowners, as appropriate for their community. It is simultaneously mandate relief and a way to provide tangible property tax relief to elderly and disabled residents.

I urge you to favorably report this bill.